

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

-----006522 111750Z /43

R 111413Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8032

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: YOUNG AFRIKANERS THREATEN BOLT FROM NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY

REF: PRETORIA 3303,

1. DR. JOHAN PRINS, A YOUNG (35) AFRIKANER VERLIGTE LEADER IN THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, THE NEW REPUBLIC PARTY (NRP) (REFTTEL), TOLD AN EMBOFF JULY 8 THAT HIS FACTION WAS EXTREMELY BITTER ABOUT BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BOLTING. PRINS, A COMPARATIVE NEOPHYTE IN SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS WHO PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE NRP'S FORMATION, EMERGED FROM THOSE DISCUSSIONS AND THE NRP CONVENTION AS THE UNQUESTIONED LEADER OF THE PARTY'S YOUNG AFRIKANER VERLIGTES. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AT THE NRP CONVENTION, HE AND HIS GROUP HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE THE NRP'S LEADERSHIP THAT THE NEW PARTY COULD ATTRACT A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF YOUNG AFRIKANERS FROM THE NATIONAL PARTY IF YOUNG AFRIKANERS WERE GIVEN NRP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. BUT THEY WERE REBUFFED.

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2. AS A RESULT, PRINS TOLD THE EMBOFF, THE NRP HAD BECOME A "WARMED-OVER" UNITED PARTY (UP) WITH A NEW FACADE. HE SAID HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY WARNED INTERIM PARTY LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF THAT UNLESS HE (PRINS) OR ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES WERE NAMED TO THE NRP'S CONTEMPLATED "LEADERSHIP COUNCIL", HE WOULD ADVISE HIS FOLLOWERS TO SERIOUSLY RE-THINK THEIR PARTY ALLEGIANCE. IN ADDITION, PRINS SAID, IF,

AS IS RUMORED, PARLIAMENTARY LEADER RADCLYFFE CADMAN (WHO CANNOT SPEAK AFRIKAANS) IS NAMED PARTY LEADER, HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS WOULD IMMEDIATELY BOLT THE PARTY.

3. COMMENT: THE NRP'S ATTEMPT TO BECOME A BROAD-BASED CENTRIST PARTY IS ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF DETERIORATION. ITS CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT HAS SERVED NOTICE THAT IT OPPOSES CONTINUED UNITY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROGRESSIVE-REFORM PARTY; AND NOW THE YOUNG AFRIKANER VERLIGTES, WHO FAVOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, ARE CONTEMPLATING A BOLT IF THEIR LEADERSHIP ASPIRATIONS ARE NOT RECOGNIZED. THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL TELL IF THESE DIFFERENCES CAN BE IRONED OUT OR IF THE NRP COALITION, LIKE THE UP COALITION BEFORE IT, WILL FACE A COLLAPSE FROM ITS OWN INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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